

# Haymarket Herald

February 2021



## The Gospel of Mark

### **WHO CAN YOU CHECK-ON FROM HBC?**

The ministers of Haymarket Baptist Church have been busy this winter checking on various members via phone calls, emails and Allan is even hosting “virtual pie” meetings. Ken meets regularly with our quartet and emails other choir members. But what about you? Are you willing to reach out to one or two or even three of your fellow church members?

The biblical understanding of church is that it is a gathering of believers in Jesus Christ and that each person is responsible to all the others. Now, obviously, I don’t expect any of you to contact the nearly 200 church members on our church roll. But I do expect you to reach out to one or two and ask how they are getting by during this Covid-19 pandemic.

For some of you, this will be an easy task. You love talking to people by phone and even as you are reading this column, you are thinking of several friends you talk to regularly and planning to call them today. Thank you for that! Perhaps you could even add one call to that member of your Sunday School class you have not heard from since Christmas. Or if you are a member of the Youth Group, may you could send a text message to another member telling what you have been busy doing and asking what they have been doing. Members of the women’s and men’s Bible studies can reach out to members who have missed the last few meetings.

My wife Linda can tell you how much letters and cards, personally written and signed by friends, can lift her spirits. They can lift the spirits of other members as well. For those of you who still write notes, send a couple out today to people you love but have not seen recently!

When I mention “members,” I don’t mean to leave out the significant numbers of friends who attend our church periodically or even regularly but are not official members. Reach out to one or two of them as well. Drop them a card or give them a call. If you don’t have their number, consult the new church directory. It even has email addresses! If you need a copy of the new directory, pick one up from the church office OR call Ann Whitney and she will mail or email a copy to you. While you are talking to Ann, be sure to ask how she and Dwight are doing, and how her mom is recovering from some medical difficulties. Ann is a part of our church family as well.

All of this may sound like I want you to treat your fellow church members like family...and that is exactly right. They are your family! When family members miss one other, they call, or text, or write, or email. Please join me in reaching out to several other members of our church family this week!

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark



## REV. ALLAN SMITH

### Resolving to Follow Christ into 2021

**B**elieve it or not, we have moved right on into 2021. Without the typical fanfare and celebration of New Year's, you might not have noticed. Yet, here we are in a new year once again.

With any new year comes New Year's resolutions. I admit that I rarely have New Year's resolutions myself these days. Like so many, I am not always great at keeping up with my resolution, so I have mostly stopped making New Year's resolutions in my personal life. If you have made any resolutions, good luck! I wish you the best in staying committed to the goals you have set for yourself for 2021.

Aside from personal New Year's resolutions, though, I am in thought about New Year's resolutions for Haymarket Baptist Church. Have you thought about that at all? What are things we would like to improve upon as a church in 2021? What do we want to be focused on as a congregation?

I am sure a few easy and obvious answers come to mind, such as - resuming in person gatherings for children, youth, and adult small groups; gathering together on Wednesday night to share food and fellowship over the table; and being able to shake hands and hug again in worship! All of

these are things we miss as a church and are (mostly) a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. And, realistically, I have no more information on the timeline for these resolutions than you do at this point.

But let us think further. What else might we hope to accomplish and 2021? What else might we like to improve upon in 2021? How can we as a church grow more connected to one another? How can we as a church grow more connected to the Haymarket community? How can we serve God faithfully in 2021?

As always, I enjoy hearing from you. I would enjoy having a conversation with you about your ideas of New Year's resolutions for Haymarket Baptist Church in 2021.

Allan Smith  
Associate Pastor for Community Outreach



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

**I**n the case of inclement weather on a Sunday, service cancellations will be communicated through the church deacons who will contact their families. Updates will also be available via church-wide email, church website, and social media if possible. During the week, the church follows the closing policy of Prince William County schools. Therefore, when the schools are closed and/or evening activities are cancelled, all in-person church activities for that day or evening will be cancelled or shifted to a virtual format. It is hopeful that any on-line church activities can be held as scheduled.



## DEACON'S BENCH

In the January Deacon's Bench, Lisa Morgan discussed the topic of love and forgiveness. She described how a lack of forgiveness can be an impediment to loving others as Christ called us to love others. She concluded with Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

This month, I would like to pick up where Lisa left off by sharing with you some highlights of a sermon delivered by C.H. Spurgeon entitled "Forgiveness Made Easy," in which he expounds the latter half of Ephesians 4:32: "Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

He first notes that we should be imitators of Christ. There is no more noble Christian virtue than that of forgiveness.

*"The theme of God's forgiving love is so fascinating that we may linger awhile, and a long while too, upon that bright example of forgiveness which God has set before us, but from it all I hope we shall be gathering grace by which to forgive others even to seventy times seven."*

Spurgeon characterizes God's forgiveness in the following ways:

**The act of forgiveness is a continuous one.** Forgiveness is a continual process. God's forgiveness was not a one-time occurrence. At the moment of pardon, it was given once for all sins past, present, and future.

*"I have sometimes heard it said that we were so forgiven when we first believed that there is no need to ask for further forgiveness; to which I reply—We were so completely forgiven when we first believed that we ought continually to ask for the perpetuity of that one far-reaching act, that the Lord may continue to exert towards us that fulness of forgiving grace which absolved us perfectly at the first, that we may continue to walk before him with a sense of that complete forgiveness, clear and unquestioned."*

### **Forgiveness on God's part was free.**

We did nothing to obtain it by merit, and we brought nothing wherewith to purchase it.

*"God forgave us fully When the Lord forgave us he forgave us the whole debt. He did not take the bill and say, "I strike out this item and that," but the pen went through it all;—PAID. It was a receipt in full of all demands, Jesus took the handwriting which was against us and nailed it to his cross, to show before the entire universe that its power to condemn us had ceased for ever. We have in him a full forgiveness."*

### **Forgiveness is eternal.**

*"He will never rake up our offences a second time."*

### **Forgiveness is divine.**

*"If a man has played you false, although you have forgiven him, you are not likely to trust him again. It is an old proverb, "Never ride a broken-knee'd horse," and it is not a bad proverb either. But see how the Lord deals with his people. When Peter was set on his legs again he was a broken-knee'd horse enough, and yet see how gloriously the Lord rode that charger on the day of Pentecost."*

### **Therefore, for Christ's sake we must forgive.**

*"If anyone here who is a Christian finds a difficulty in forgiveness, I am going to give him three words which will help him wonderfully. I would put them into the good man's mouth. I gave them to you just now, and prayed you to get the sweetness of them; here they are again! "For Christ's sake." Cannot you forgive an offender on that ground? . . . I entreat you to eat your words up for Christ's sake. Sometimes when I have been pleading a case like that, the person I have been persuading has kindly said, "I will do it for you, sir." I have said, "I will thank you if you will do it at all, but I would rather you would have said you would do it for my Master, for what a*



## The People of the Bible

For anyone who is looking to participate in a Bible Study and have not yet found a group that meets on a day/time that works for you, this may be your opportunity! I have started a new weekly group that meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

The topic of the study is “The People of the Bible”. It is an in-depth study of many individuals mentioned in the Bible, their stories, how they fit in with events and other people of the Bible. We will study how their stories can help us understand ourselves better and to apply God’s Word to our daily lives. The study will be broken down into groupings of people. The first study will last six weeks and cover the people mentioned in the Bible starting with Adam and going through Noah. It is an interactive study as I welcome input from every member of the study. I certainly am not claiming to be an expert on the material, just someone who is very interested and excited about the topic and have spent a lot of time teaching a similar study to the youth. There is no study guide, no required preparation, and no homework other than to see if you can take what you have learned and use it to develop and/or improve your own personal Bible study and prayer time.

We are meeting over Zoom for this six-week session as it will probably be too cold for people to want to leave their homes anyway! The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. with a 15-minute period of time for socializing with each other and resolving any connection issues. The lesson will start at approximately 7:15 p.m. and will end at 8:15 p.m. After the lesson, anyone who wishes to continue socializing can stay on the call as long or short as they like.

If you would like to join us, please call or text me at (703) 201-2669 or email me at [vbayol@me.com](mailto:vbayol@me.com). Also, this study is open to anyone, not just church members, so if you know anyone who you think would be interested, please pass on this info along to them.

I look forward to hearing from you!

In Christ,  
Vicki Bayol

*blessed Master he has been to you! Do it for his sake." . . . Come, you two brothers, who have fallen out, love each other for Christ's sake; come, you two sisters, come you two friends who have been alienated, get together directly, and end all your ill feeling for Christ's sake. You must not keep a drop of malice in your soul, for Christ's sake. Oh charming word, how it melts us, and as it melts it seems to leave no trace of anger behind it: for Christ's sake our love suffers long and never fails."*

I've revisited this sermon a number of times over the years; particularly when I find myself harboring resentment or animosity. It reminds me of how much I've been forgiven through Christ and how little He asks in return. It provides a model for which we should offer forgiveness. Forgiveness should be continuous, free, eternal, divine, and most importantly for Christ's sake.

The full text of this sermon can be found at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/forgiveness/#flipbook/>

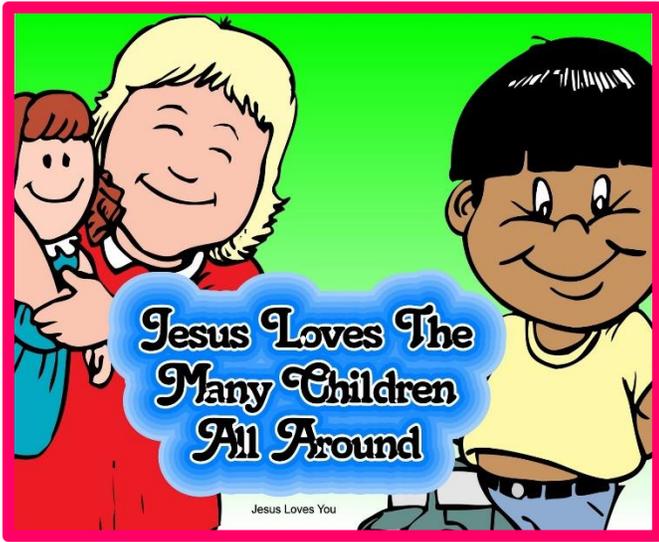
Yours in Christ,  
Brad Young  
February Deacon of the Month



## SECURITY OFFICERS FOR FEBRUARY

We greatly appreciate these officers dedicating their time and effort towards the safety of our members and visitors.

Feb. 7	Jeff Shaver
Feb. 14	Randy Anderson
Feb. 21	Jeff Shaver
Feb. 28	Randy Anderson



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear Church Family,

**W**e completed our semester report cards, and virtual meetings with parents for the Parent-Teacher Conference. We were able to assess all our 4-year-olds for Kindergarten Readiness. We are plugging away! One funny story is as a teacher was asking a student about his letters-asked what letter is this or that... when asked what letter is this (S)?, he said, "Well, I don't know what letter that is, but if you draw two lines through the middle of it, it makes a dollar" Oh my, kids are so funny! He knew the dollar sign, but not the letter S- now there's some street smarts for you right there!

February is a busy and fun month for your preschool and kindergarten! Registration takes place on February 1 for current, alumni and church member students, and then again on February 5th for new families. We are, of course, uncertain about how things will go in the fall, but we are proceeding on faith that the Lord will provide direction and clarity for what is best for September! Please pray for our enrollment- that the online registration goes smoothly, and that God continues to fill the school with His children, in His time!

This month includes our celebration of Valentine's Day- of course, differently- without the highly anticipated valentine mailboxes, or exchange of valentines this year. We will instead have a little party with a craft and a game, a story- and then make valentines for parents and some of our church family, too! We will learn about shadows and hibernation. We will celebrate President's Day- learning about famous presidents, and their faces on our coins and

dollars. We will also celebrate the letter Pp by wearing pajamas to school! This is always a student AND teacher favorite! On Saturday, Feb 20 our staff will attend a virtual Teacher Conference and we'll close out the month with spirit day and wearing our red school shirts.

We hope that this month finds you all feeling healthy and staying safe, as it is our prayer for you and for us as we share this church space. We are wishful for some snow and sledding opportunities for the kids.

With love,  
Mrs. Laurie Frasz  
Director, Haymarket Baptist Church  
Preschool & Kindergarten

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- Feb. 7 Derek Terrant
- Feb. 13 Paul Knighton  
Ricky Kilby
- Feb. 15 Mark Olson
- Feb. 16 Leigh Ann McNeil
- Feb. 17 Christie Johanning  
John Garrett
- Feb. 24 Yuri Pross
- Feb. 26 Rosa Paredes  
Gloria Larios
- Feb. 28 Tyler Gass  
Andrew Brown  
Amanda Klesyk



# MISSIONS COMMITTEE

*And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up daily, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the stalk, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. Now when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.*  
Mark 4:26-29

**I**t may seem a bit early to be planting, or even planning, a garden, but seed catalogs are already arriving. My relatives in Texas will see daffodils blooming this month! Here in Virginia, our gardening is still well into the future. But it's never too early to plan for something so enjoyable. I don't think God created anything better than a ripe, juicy tomato. All we have to do is add a little mayo, lettuce, and bacon to achieve perfection.

The thing with a BLT is that though the tomato is listed last, it's the most important ingredient. Now, don't misunderstand; there's nothing wrong with a bacon sandwich, especially if it's on a biscuit. While I like lettuce on my sandwiches, I wouldn't want that to be the only thing between the slices of bread. Tomatoes, however, can stand on their own! A true Southern tomato sandwich is a culinary marvel!\*

A tomato sandwich requires only one thing: a vine-ripened meaty tomato that when sliced covers the bread. That tomato needs to have a balance between acidic and sweet flavors with plenty of juice. For this meal, one of those orangish, mealy things purchased from the grocery store will not do. These tomatoes need to be purchased from a local farmer's market or, preferably, picked from your own vines. Recommended varieties are Celebrity, Brandywine, or Better Boy. All of these tomatoes grow large enough for this purpose without having a green core that needs to be removed. I can almost taste that sandwich and feel the juices dripping off my hands.\*\* Ahh, yes. It's time to start planning!

Tomatoes need about 6 hours of sunlight every day, preferably afternoon sun, and a nutrient rich soil that has been worked to a loamy consistency to allow the tender roots to take hold. The plants need water, but not too much. The soil should be slightly acidic, but not too much. The soil

should also contain nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, but not too much. If this early preparation isn't done properly, the young plants will not survive. That means that there will be no harvest.

Most people garden to obtain that resulting harvest. After all, that's the point of all that labor. But gardening is a risky venture. We can choose the ideal location, work the soil, apply fertilizer, and nurture the young plants. However, all of our labor is no guarantee that the crop will be plentiful. That is dependent on the temperature, the amount of rainfall, the damage done by pests, and how hungry the deer population is. There is nothing so disappointing as seeing those first tomatoes appear, watching them grow and begin to turn red, only to check them one morning and realize that during the night, the deer not only feasted on the tomatoes but ate the entire plant!

All of this is what Jesus was referring to in the Parable of the Soil and the Parable of the Seed. If we, like my aunt used to do, purchase a tomato plant that already has fruit on it, yet we put it in poor soil or don't give it proper care, the harvest will probably be poor. All of that planning, preparation, and cultivation is required for a good harvest. This is true in gardening and in planting seeds of salvation. There are many parallels between the two, and Jesus used this idea in His teaching.

A seed thrown on uncultivated ground or into the unprepared ear of a non-believer will not take root and thrive. The "soil" needs to be worked to remove clods of dirt (preexisting beliefs), rocks (defensive walls), and clumps of unwanted root systems (previous ideologies) that would prevent a new, tender plant from surviving. Even with careful preparation, some of those barriers will return (weeds) or be discovered later (rocks that just seem to appear). These must be carefully removed, or the young, fragile plant will not survive. This is the first part of our job in planting the seeds of salvation in the unreached people of the world.

This cultivation can take the form of being open about our Christian faith with people *outside* of Haymarket Baptist Church. It can be something as minor as what we post on Facebook or Parler. It can also be something more "dangerous" such as discussing our beliefs in the breakroom at work where such topics are sometimes frowned on. It can also take the form of inviting someone to one of the fun activities at HBC like the outdoor movies over the summer or the recent car-caroling. These actions

can be equated as aerating the soil, softening the dirt so that it is ready to accept the seed, and the judicious application of nutrients. Remember, too much acidity, preaching, nitrogen, or prodding is as bad as not enough.

Planting the seed is also our responsibility. At one of the places where I worked, I arrived in the morning with scripture passages printed on small pieces of paper in my pocket. Throughout the day, I would deposit these around the complex for other people to find. This is comparable to the broadcast sowing in the Parable of the Soils. Some people probably read that note and tossed it in the trash. But some may have read it and *thought* about it. The seed was planted and only needed nurturing. The interesting thing about this activity is that I never knew what effect it had. I simply planted the seed.

If we expect a harvest, however, those seeds and young plants need to be cared for and protected. Nourishment and water must be provided. Predators who would destroy the seed or the new growth must be defended against. The soil preparation and the initial planting are the easy parts. The cultivation phase is long-term and ongoing, often with no harvest visible in the immediate future. The differing tomato varieties each have a predicted “days to maturity” so we know approximately when we can expect our first tomato sandwich. The harvest of souls is not so predictable.

While we know what is needed to assure the growth of beautiful tomatoes, doing all of that is still no guarantee of success. Sometimes the temperatures are perfect, the rainfall is exactly what is needed, and

the deer deterrents work as advertised, yet the vine withers and dies, Other times, a “volunteer” vine pokes its head out of uncultivated soil, grows to maturity, and yields a bumper crop of delicious tomatoes. This happens because there is only so much that we can control. The ultimate harvest, of tomatoes or people, is up to God.

However, that does not relieve us of our responsibility of participating in this cycle. Looking back at the Parable of the Soils, it is clear that those seeds cast on receptive ground are more likely to survive and bear fruit. Our job is to prepare the soil and to nurture the young growth. It is ultimately up to God to reap the harvest. We may never see the result of our labor with people. Sometimes, however, we are a part of the harvest that someone else cultivated. Whichever it may be, we are called by God to prepare the harvest for His reaping.

Have you begun to plan your garden? Are you cultivating the soil? Are you ready to sow the seeds and nurture the souls that God sends your way?

\*For the recipe for a true Southern Tomato Sandwich, go to:

<https://www.ibelieveicanfry.com/southern-tomato-sandwich/>

\*\*If the juices don’t run off your fingers, you did something wrong. ☺

Edith Kennedy  
Mission Committee Chairperson

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